

Additionally, prior to examination on the merits, Applicant requests that the following amendments be made to the application:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please substitute the following paragraph:

At page 73, lines 1-12:

a' Also, as is shown in Fig. 17B which is a schematic detail of another variation of the embodiment of Fig. 16, venturi tube 1434" can be spaced from liner 1422" and cooling shroud 1428" by sleeve member 1478" which provides coolant channels 1478a" to prevent excessive temperatures at venturi exit 1454". Due to the compressed air flow through coolant channels 1478a" directly into combustion zone 1424" bypassing venturi mixing tube 1434", the fuel/air ratio may not be controlled to the degree possible with the variations in Fig. 16 and Fig. 17A which may rely on a thermal barrier coating to prevent excessive mixing tube exit temperatures. While not presently preferred, however, the variation depicted in Fig. 17B is considered part of the present invention in its broadest aspect and is expected to minimize flash backs and fuel residue due to impingement, as explained previously.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the pending claims to read as follows:

8. (Amended) The premixer apparatus as in claim 7, wherein the skirt is fixed and the valve plate is movable, relative to the mixing tube entrance.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW *a2*
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com